COMPUTERIZED MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC

SYSTEM UTILIZING LIST-BASED PROCESSING

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method for providing computerized, knowledge-based medical

5   diagnostic advice. The medical advice is provided to the general public over a network,

such as a telephone network with the use of a telephone or the Internet with the use of an

Internet access device. Alternatively, the medical advice can be provided to a patient in a

stand-alone mode by use of a computer. The invention utilizes a list-based processing

method of generating and executing diagnostic scripts. For the purpose of diagnosing a

10   health problem of a patient, medical knowledge is organized into a list of the diseases to be

considered. Each disease on the disease list includes a list of symptoms that is checked in

a patient. Each symptom on the symptom list is then further described as a response to a

list of one or more questions asked of the patient about the symptom. This triply-nested

list structure is converted by suitable data structure transformations into a script that is

15   stored. When a patient requires diagnosis, the script is played back as a sequence of

questions. The responses of the patient are analyzed and converted into symptoms. The

symptoms are accumulated into diseases. Finally the diseases are selected and reported as

a diagnosis.

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